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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(Item 3 (b) (ii))

Programme 28
Safety and security

1. At its 17th meeting, on 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 28)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Department of Safety and Security for the safe deployment of United Nations staff, especially in peacekeeping missions, where a growing number of incidents affecting civilian staff and peacekeepers presented a major concern in high-risk and multi-risk locations. Delegations welcomed the professionalism and effectiveness demonstrated by the Department, including in coordinating visits of high-level dignitaries to Headquarters and organizing conferences, as well as in the course of security assistance visits.

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4. Emphasis was placed on effective cooperation and coordination with host authorities to ensure the safety and security of personnel working in the field, including through the exchange of information with local governments and communities. While recognizing that technology contributed to mitigating some risks, it was stressed that the most effective way to protect the Organization was to maintain effective relationships with local communities and host Governments, given their advanced understanding of the local security situation. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether specific processes or platforms existed for information exchanges between the Department and Member States, both in the field and at Headquarters, and it was suggested that the availability of such processes or platforms should be incorporated into the framework in the form of an indicator of achievement.

5. Regarding subprogramme 1, Security and safety coordination, clarification was sought on the provision for minimum operating security standards, as reflected in indicator of achievement (i) under expected accomplishment (a), including on the nature of those standards, the potential of broader-scope planning and how those standards contributed to an adequate security environment.

6. Regarding subprogramme 2, Regional field operation coordination, questions were raised concerning the deployment of support to the United Nations Security Management Team, as reflected in indicator of achievement (iii) under expected accomplishment (b), including how that indicator would be assessed and what the role of the countries concerned would be.

7. Regarding subprogramme 3, Field support, appreciation was expressed for indicator of achievement (i) under expected accomplishment (a), measuring the percentage of staff and their families in the high-risk duty stations in the field that received stress-management training. Information was sought on how United Nations staff were prepared for threats in tough and dangerous conditions and on what was being done to reassure personnel that they were safe. A question was raised as to what the Department intended to do to improve the code of conduct for staff working in the field. Reference was made to the contribution of technological modernization to ensuring the security of personnel, sites, transport and other areas, including by providing clear warnings of impending threats.

8. It was pointed out that, throughout the programme, the words "safety and security" and "security and safety" were used interchangeably, with the view expressed that the text would benefit from a consistent use of the same formulation.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.**

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

1. At its 20th meeting, on 13 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 5)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed support for the programme and appreciation for the work carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. That outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful and research purposes, as opposed to political, economic or armament purposes, was emphasized.

4. Emphasis was placed on the common interest of humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and on the importance of international cooperation in the field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point.

5. It was pointed out that no reference had been made to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the proposed strategic framework, and that, in an effort

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to mainstream the transformative agenda in all programmes, a reference needed to be included in the list of legislative mandates for the programme.

6. It was observed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement had been revised or deleted, while no changes in the mandate of the programme had occurred. An explanation was sought as to why the reference to prioritizing assistance to developing countries in building or enhancing their capacity in space law and policy for the peaceful use of outer space had been removed (para. 5.7 and indicator of achievement (b) (i)). An enquiry was also made as to why indicator of achievement (d) (ii) had been removed. Clarification was sought on the criteria that had been used in revising the existing expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, and on whether unforeseen impediments had affected the programme, which was otherwise delivering well on its existing mandates. It was questioned whether the reformulation of the proposed strategic framework was justified, in the absence of new mandates and any substantive changes. That the proposed changes would have an impact on the allocation of resources (for example, on building national capacity in developing countries) during the budget formulation phase was underlined.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Strengthened capacity of countries, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in using space science and technology and related applications, including global navigation satellite systems, particularly in areas related to sustainable development".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (i) with "Increased number of countries, in particular developing countries, receiving training facilitated by the programme in space science and technology and related applications".

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with "Increased number of countries, in particular developing countries, receiving support in using space science and technology and related applications".

Add a new indicator of achievement (d) (ii), reading "Increased number of countries, in particular developing countries, requesting and receiving systematic and continuous technical advisory assistance for using space-based solutions in disaster management plans and policies and in the implementation of risk reduction activities".

Legislative mandates

Add:

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 27
Jointly financed activities

1. At its 18th and 20th meetings, on 10 and 13 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 27) and Corr.1). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme and its constituent components. The importance of the programme's role in coordinating the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in accordance with their respective mandates was emphasized.

4. Regarding component A, International Civil Service Commission, delegations expressed support for the role of the Commission in the strengthening of the United Nations system, especially in the area of human resources. Delegations noted the

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importance of organizational reform and the completion of the first phase of the comprehensive review of the United Nations common system compensation package for the Professional and higher categories of staff.

5. Clarification was sought on the modification of the indicator of achievement for expected accomplishment (b) from "high percentage" to "percentage". The view was expressed that, without indicating a trend or the level of the percentage, whether high or low, the significance of the indicator might be undermined.

6. Regarding component C, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the importance of the coordinating role of the Board was emphasized. In particular, the contribution of the Board to ensuring that the entire United Nations system worked coherently, especially in the area of inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the light of the existing transformative agenda, was highlighted.

7. A delegation called for the indicators of achievement for expected accomplishment (d), in relation to sustaining compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), to be reformulated. Clarification was sought regarding the difference between and the effectiveness of the two indicators, taking into account that IPSAS had been implemented for some time. Clarification was also sought on the nature of the information intended to be provided on IPSAS.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modification:**

Legislative mandates

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

General Assembly resolutions

Add:

69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 22
Palestine refugees

1. At its 19th meeting, on 10 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 22)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the important work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in alleviating the plight of the Palestine refugees, in particular women and children, and for the Agency's staff who carried out their work under difficult financial, political and economic conditions.

4. Questions were raised concerning the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of UNRWA for the year ended 31 December 2014 (A/70/5/Add.4 and Corr.1) and three of the issues raised therein:

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the lack of adequate education facilities for children with special needs, the inadequacy of health facilities for the general population and expired stocks of medicines. Information was sought on the strategy in place to rectify the issues cited by the Board, how the strategic framework addressed the identified weaknesses and what the Agency was specifically doing to improve its management of supplies.

5. Clarification was sought on whether the financial situation of UNRWA, including the chronic instability of financial resources, had had an impact on the goals set in the programme.

6. Note was taken of the change in the names of the various subprogrammes compared with the previous period and clarification was sought as to the underlying reasons therefor.

7. Under subprogramme 1, Palestine refugee rights under international law are protected and promoted, information was sought on the indicators of achievement, in particular on the experience of the Agency in the previous biennium. Furthermore, the view was expressed that the indicators were rather specific in the light of the broad scope of the subprogramme, and questions were raised as to whether there was a discrepancy between the two. Clarifications were sought on the use of the term "at-risk groups" in paragraph 22.9 (b) and what could be done to overcome the challenges facing such groups.

8. With regard to subprogramme 2, Palestine refugee health is protected and disease burden is reduced, delegations emphasized the importance of mental health care, in particular of children who were exposed to recurring situations of violence. Information was sought on how the Agency was addressing that particular need, especially in the aftermath of the situation in Gaza in 2014. Clarification was requested on the meaning of the term "behavioural change" in paragraph 22.10 (c).

9. With regard to indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (iii) under subprogramme 2, views were expressed that they could reflect either positive or negative developments, depending on the circumstances. For example, an increase in the number of patients per doctor could be due to a shortage of doctors and medicine.

10. In relation to subprogramme 3, School-age children complete quality, equitable and inclusive basic education, information was sought on how UNRWA was addressing the education needs of children in the Syrian Arab Republic or those who had had to flee that country. As to the strategy, clarification was requested as to why paragraph 22.11 (b) had been restricted to Lebanon.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 22.11 (b)

Delete the words "in Lebanon".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 26
Internal oversight

1. At its 17th meeting, on 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 26)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the functions that the programme carried out and the role that OIOS played in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as well as its transparency, accountability and results-driven basis. Particular emphasis was placed on the operational independence of OIOS and information was sought on possible improvements in its funding mechanisms and how its budget dependence on other bodies might be reduced. The need for OIOS to develop a strategic long-term objective in line with strategic risks was also noted.

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4. In relation to the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 (A/70/284), questions were raised as to whether the recommendations, specifically those made in paragraph 10 of the report, had been taken into consideration during the preparation of the programme and what specific measures OIOS was taking to implement them. Also based on information provided in that report, in particular figures III and IV, which showed that most of the unsatisfactory audit report ratings were associated with field operation reports, information was sought on how OIOS intended to resolve that discrepancy. In that connection, it was emphasized that an increased focus must be placed on the implementation of recommendations in the field.

5. With regard to subprogramme 1, Internal audit, clarification was sought on the nature and scope of the "resolutions" referenced in indicator of achievement (a) (i) and on indicators of achievement (b) (i) and (ii), relating to programme managers accepting and implementing audit recommendations, respectively, and the difference between the indicators and the reason for separating them. It was also asked why the reference to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards had been removed from the strategy.

6. In the context of subprogramme 1, information was sought on the capacity of programme managers to implement recommendations and on the overall shortcomings of management. In that regard, the view was expressed that management capacity should be given more attention, including, for example, by analysing the implementation of major initiatives, field support or capital investments. After all, a delegation stated, the overall goal of OIOS was to help to improve the work of the Secretariat.

7. With regard to subprogramme 2, Inspection and evaluation, information was sought on the reasons for the deletion of the reference to "the relevance of administrative procedures and to assess whether the activities correspond to the mandates" from the objective of the Organization. Similarly, an enquiry was made regarding the complete replacement of indicator of achievement (ii). It was stressed that, pursuant to regulation 7.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2016/6), all activities programmed had to be evaluated over a fixed time period. As to the proposed new indicator (ii), concern was expressed at the limitations in measuring expressions of satisfaction by programme managers with reports of the Inspection and Evaluation Division and it was said that the indicator should in fact measure appropriate action taken by programme managers in response to inspections and evaluations.

8. As to the strategy of subprogramme 2, information was sought on the provenance of the notion of "cyclical coverage" of evaluations and inspections. It was recalled that the Committee, at its previous session, had been unable to agree on the concept.

9. With regard to subprogramme 3, Investigations, questions were raised regarding the backlog of investigations, in particular in the area of investigations in peacekeeping operations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by the United Nations or other entities operating under a Security Council mandate. It was suggested that specific indicators of achievement should be considered to evaluate OIOS activities in that regard.

10. Clarification was sought regarding coordination with other oversight bodies, in particular the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board of Auditors and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, and how such cooperation was helping to enhance the functions of OIOS.

11. Regarding the legislative mandates, clarification was sought as to why the resolutions on progress towards an accountability system in the Secretariat had not been included.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(Item 3 (c))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. At its 4th meeting, on 1 June 2016, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (E/AC.51/2016/2).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UNEP, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the report, which they termed useful and interesting. General agreement with the results and conclusions was expressed, as was support for the recommendations, which delegations affirmed as reflecting sound management practices.

4. Delegations commended UNEP for its action to implement the recommendations and encouraged it to continue its progress towards their full implementation. In particular, delegations cited the Programme's progress in institutionalizing its use of results-based budgeting and strengthening its regional presence. In that regard, UNEP

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was commended for having continued to implement recommendation 3, which was focused on the need for it to strengthen its regional offices, by having issued an operational guidance note since the publication of the OIOS report.

5. Delegations sought further clarification from UNEP on factors preventing it from fully implementing individual recommendations. Some asked why Umoja had been a hindrance to the finalization of the partner feedback mechanism (recommendation 1); why the development of a database to track requests for its capacity-building assistance and a strategic plan for its capacity-building services had stalled (recommendation 2); what specific measures UNEP had taken to strengthen its regional offices (recommendation 3); and how UNEP could establish clear and transparent criteria for allocating resources to activities in the thematic priority areas and measure the impact of those activities, and why the allocation of resources from the Environment Fund had been challenging (recommendation 4). A delegation stated with concern that staff change and turnover, regarded by UNEP as factors obstructing the implementation of recommendations 1 and 2, could not be rational reasons why UNEP had been unable to implement those recommendations fully, suggesting that the Programme should devise a framework that would not be affected in such a way. Remarks were made and clarification was sought regarding the continued gaps in the allocation of resources from the Environment Fund and measures being taken by management to address the issue. Positive comments were made regarding recommendation 5, relating to putting in place a full complement of seven full-time subprogramme coordinators and its usefulness in avoiding duplication, while at the same time it was noted that work should continue with regard to that recommendation.

6. A delegation noted that, as evidenced in the report, there had been a tendency for UNEP to stretch its mandate, especially after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, going beyond its original mandate and overlapping with other bodies. As examples, the number of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session and the eventual overlapping of functions between UNEP and the high-level political forum on sustainable development with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were cited. A comment was also made that the strengthening of UNEP at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development should have enhanced its efficiency to achieve its primary mandated tasks.

7. Regarding the regional presence of UNEP, a delegation said that the opening of a regional office in Montevideo, alongside the office in Panama, was highly appreciated. It was pointed out, however, that the new office lacked both the financial and human resources to fulfil its mandate.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee decided to defer consideration of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of UNEP (E/AC.51/2016/2) to its fifty-seventh session.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 3 (c))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

1. At its 5th meeting, on 1 June 2016, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2016/3).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for and concurred with the detailed analysis and recommendations contained in the report. Delegations commended the Office for its determined action to date to diligently implement the five recommendations, in particular recommendation 2, on the establishment of a senior surge deployment mechanism to be prepared to react to emergencies when they arose, and recommendation 3, on the leadership role of the Office in the implementation by the humanitarian system of the transformative agenda. Delegations noted and underlined

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their support for the Office's work, encouraging the Office to consider the conclusions of the review and the preliminary indications of the positive outcomes resulting from the implementation of the recommendations as an incentive for continued progress.

4. Further details were sought on the impact of and lessons learned from the implementation of the recommendations on the timeliness and effectiveness of humanitarian response, in the light of the multiple competing humanitarian crises.

5. Referring to the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, clarification was sought as to how the Office would implement the outcomes, with a delegation reiterating its intentions regarding the transformative agenda and the "grand bargain". At the same time, a delegation, expressing support for the deadlines for the recommendations and reporting on compliance, indicated that the results of the Summit were a collection of voluntary obligations and that the outcome had not been agreed upon through an intergovernmental process.

6. Further clarification was sought from the Office regarding the operating definitions of such terms as "emergency", "crisis" and "protracted crises", and how its mandate was related to those definitions.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee decided to defer consideration of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2016/3) to its fifty-seventh session.**

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Addendum

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit
(Item 5)

Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system

1. At its 7th meeting, on 2 June 2016, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system" (A/70/686) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) thereon (A/70/686/Add.1).

2. An inspector of the Unit, Sukai Prom-Jackson, introduced the report of the Unit and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee. A representative of the CEB secretariat introduced the report containing the comments of the Secretary-General and CEB and responded to queries raised.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Unit as the sole independent, external oversight body of the United Nations system. The Unit was encouraged to continue to submit reports within the mandate of the Committee for its consideration. At the same time, it was stressed that the Secretary-General must implement all the Unit's recommendations that had been approved by the General Assembly or relevant governing bodies and that detailed explanations must be given in cases in which their implementation had been delayed.

4. Appreciation was also expressed for the report of the Unit. Several delegations welcomed, in particular, its critical and frank nature. Its comprehensiveness was

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welcomed, notwithstanding the fact that it did not include an analysis of the embedded evaluation functions of the Secretariat departments or the regional commissions that had been addressed in a recent evaluation study conducted by the Secretariat. Overall, delegations expressed support for the recommendations contained in the report and looked forward to discussing them in detail.

5. Several statements were made emphasizing the need to continuously enhance and develop the Organization's evaluation function so as to allow it to achieve its objectives and account for its success. Similarly, calls were made to strengthen the work of the Unit in the area of evaluation, and information was sought on what Member States could do to facilitate such a process. Furthermore, the views of the Unit were sought with regard to which measures could be taken by organizations at the bottom of the quality grading structure to address their issues.

6. Concern was expressed at the finding that, in developing their evaluation functions, organizations had focused on responding to demands for accountability and had not fully addressed other important elements, such as developing a culture of evaluation and using evaluation as a learning instrument. In that regard, delegations stressed the need for a balance between accountability and the other elements.

7. Reference was made to the finding that the level of commitment was not commensurate with the increased importance of and demand for the evaluation function. The view was expressed that the report appeared to suggest that the evaluation function had not been taken seriously enough across the United Nations system. The Committee's previous recommendation on the matter was recalled, including that there continued to exist major obstacles to strengthening the evaluation functions and that it was necessary for Secretariat entities to allocate appropriate resources to evaluation activity and to ensure that staff working on evaluations possessed the necessary competencies.

8. Several questions were raised about the level of resources dedicated to the evaluation function, including on the level of resources required to enhance the capacity of the Unit to carry out the function. While several delegations emphasized the need to invest additional resources in the function, others referred to budgetary constraints and stressed that a detailed cost-benefit analysis must be undertaken on a case-by-case basis. It was also suggested that the function be financed within existing resources, with the argument that it paid to devote resources to evaluation in the light of the expected learning and savings. In that regard, information was sought on whether best practices existed.

9. A doubt was expressed at the suggestion that a lack of resources was the main challenge in the development of the evaluation function. Citing data provided in the report on the level of development of the function and the expenditure on evaluation, a delegation stressed that there appeared to be no correlation between the two. Clarification was sought on specific figures provided in the report, including the level of funding of the function as a percentage of organizational expenditure and the rationale for 3 per cent being referred to as desirable.

10. Several delegations stressed the importance of the independence of the evaluation function, including the appointment, tenure, diversity and professional educational background of heads of evaluation units. With regard to recruitment, it was indicated that no reference was made in the report to reducing discrepancies in

gender. Further information was requested on the impact of 85 per cent of evaluation heads in the 24 participating organizations of the Unit being from developed countries, 75 per cent of whom were men and 38 per cent auditors.

11. With regard to the finding that the use of evaluation reports for their intended purposes was consistently low for most organizations, information was sought on how that situation could be addressed and how the overall usefulness of evaluations could be increased.

12. Calls were made to strengthen decentralized evaluation functions and foster a culture of evaluation. In that regard, delegations stressed that all decentralized evaluations had been reported in the organizational annual report on evaluation to highlight the knowledge assets of the United Nations and the broad staff involvement in building the learning and evaluation culture. Information was sought on whether lessons learned had been shared among the executive heads. The importance of the close collaboration of senior leadership with the United Nations Evaluation Group was stressed in that regard.

13. A delegation sought clarification regarding the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB on the report of the Unit, whereby the organizations noted that some of the recommendations that pertained to decentralized evaluation work might present challenges for large, field-based organizations with complex mandates. In particular, greater clarity was sought with regard to the nature of the specific challenges.

14. A question was raised on how feedback expressed by the organizations had been taken into account in the implementation of the recommendations. Furthermore, clarification was sought as to the possible next steps and follow-up to the report of the Unit.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee decided to defer consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system" (A/70/686) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB thereon (A/70/686/Add.1) to its fifty-seventh session.**

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Part one: plan outline

1. At its 5th meeting, on 1 June 2016, the Committee considered part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Part one)).

2. The Chef de Cabinet introduced the plan outline and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the content, structure and strategic outlook of the report, which was said to provide a concise summary of: (a) the longer-term priorities of the Organization, which broadly reflected the priorities of Member States, for example, in terms of promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development (paras. 6-13), as well as human rights; and (b) the outcomes of internationally agreed development goals and of major United Nations conferences and international agreements, which were in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether a specific entity within the Secretariat had been tasked with coordinating the preparation of the strategic framework to ensure that there was harmonization among the frameworks and that the legislative mandates were taken into account and not exceeded. It was noted that the frameworks in some biennial programme

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plans did not reflect information on approved mandates, while others included information that had not been mandated.

4. Broad support for the eight priorities outlined in the report (para. 35) was expressed, with delegates noting that the priorities were similar to prior periods and therefore represented continuity. A delegation expressed the view that the eight priorities needed to be considered in context in that they presented a road map but were not, accordingly, a strategy. Delegations noted that the priorities would be inherited by the Administration to be led by a new Secretary-General beginning in 2017 and sought confirmation that they would be implemented by him or her. The focus on the development of Africa in partnership with the African Union and the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts as priorities for the period 2018-2019 were underlined, and the need to involve the regional commissions in the implementation of those priorities was emphasized.

5. Some delegations expressed the view that the plan outline was an overarching document that could not cover all aspects of the Organization's work and commended the Secretary-General for preparing a balanced and succinct plan outline that covered the priorities of the Organization.

6. Delegations expressed the view that the plan outline did not adequately reflect a number of issues, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, relating specifically to poverty eradication in all its forms; other cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality, empowering women and children, support for marginalized and vulnerable populations, the responsibility to protect, and support democratic elections; the mandates underpinning the dimensions of food security and the right to development; resolution 70/34 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament; resolutions 70/125 and 70/237 on, respectively, the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security; priorities relating to the effects of climate change and disaster reduction, namely, resolution 69/283, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

7. The view was also expressed that too much importance had been given to the Arms Trade Treaty, that it was premature to draw conclusions from the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and that the Secretariat should implement only those recommendations that had been the subject of intergovernmental consideration and approval.

8. A delegation stated that it had duly taken note of paragraph 16 of the report indicating that the United Nations would augment its capacities through continued efforts to strengthen peace operations and the implementation of guidance from Member States in response to the recommendation of the High-level Panel on Peace Operations and the agenda set forth in the related report of the Secretary-General. It also stated that the basic approach to United Nations support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be the same and took note that the roles of the

Secretariat in the implementation of the development agendas were currently being considered by many relevant intergovernmental bodies.

9. The same delegation asked whether the Committee would authorize the proposed changes in the absence of a review by the sectoral, functional and regional bodies.

10. Delegations expressed support for the effective and efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda (para. 6) and commended the Secretariat for reflecting the important role of Member States therein. Clarification was sought on how the Secretariat planned to reinvent itself in support of the transformative agenda, specifically in relation to the reprioritization of existing mandates and the reallocation of resources and restructuring of the Organization. Some delegations underlined that the overarching 2030 Agenda would outlive the duration of the strategic framework, which was limited to two years. Clarification was also sought on how the changes relating to the 2030 Agenda would be reflected in future proposals, including in the budget outline to be submitted to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session and the subsequent submission of the proposed programme budget for the period 2018-2019. In that regard, some delegations asked how the Secretariat would incorporate decisions yet to be taken in the framework of ongoing processes relating to the 2030 Agenda.

11. Concern was expressed regarding the emphasis placed on the economic vision of maintaining international peace and security at the expense of prioritizing the human cost of war (para. 15), on how the Organization would augment its capacities (para. 16) in relation to the conclusions of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations yet to be endorsed by intergovernmental bodies and on the lack of consensus regarding a common understanding of the political, security, development and human rights actors within and outside of the United Nations system (para. 17). The view was also expressed that investment in conflict-prevention initiatives would be critical to the maintenance of peace and security. Clarification was sought regarding how the review of subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 of programme 2, Political affairs, would be undertaken by intergovernmental bodies or Member States, in particular how the activities would be monitored to ensure that they would be implemented as planned and approved by Member States.

12. Clarification was sought on the definition of political and social crises (para. 25), the decreasing respect for United Nations immunity in the field (para. 26) and how the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts would be linked to the biennial programme plan for programme 23, Humanitarian assistance. The view was also expressed that it was unclear from which mandate the use of such terms as "humanitarian crisis" and "natural disasters" in relation to humanitarian assistance efforts was derived.

13. Support was expressed for the management initiatives reflected in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the report. In that regard, it was noted that the link between management initiatives and the results that the Organization was seeking to achieve could be improved in future reports. Some delegations were of the view that a ninth priority relating to management reform and overall performance Zat the strategic level could be added to the eight priorities for the plan period. Clarification was sought on how the implementation of the mobility framework, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Umoja would facilitate the programme planning process, including the impact on programme delivery and realizing

efficiencies, as well as on the expected implementation time frame. With regard to Umoja, clarification was sought on, among other things, the criteria to assess its effectiveness and the benefits derived from it, its impact on productivity, the delays encountered in its implementation and lessons learned.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the eight priorities for the period 2018-2019, as set out in paragraph 35 of the plan outline (A/71/6 (Part one)).**

15. **In view of the differences among Member States on some aspects of the plan outline, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the plan outline at its seventy-first session, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**

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Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development
(*Item 4 (b)*)

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 9th meeting, on 3 June 2016, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2016/5).

2. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation to and support for the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and commended the Special Adviser on the comprehensiveness of the report and the details provided therein.

4. Delegations expressed support for the work of the Office in strengthening the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system to NEPAD, including in the context of the constant and transformative changes taking place both in Africa and globally.

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5. Delegations encouraged continued efforts in support of NEPAD and Africa in the areas of socioeconomic development, peace and security, human rights, infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, industry, trade and market access, good governance, gender equality and women's empowerment, environment, population and urbanization, social and human development, and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Moreover, it was noted that Africa remained high on the list of priorities for the period 2018-2019 in the plan outline.

6. Delegations reiterated the need to continue to provide support to African Member States, the African Union and the African regional economic communities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. Clarification was sought regarding the challenges faced by the Office in its collaboration with the African Union, the African Development Bank and the African regional economic communities.

7. Delegations emphasized the importance of bilateral, triangular, multilateral and South-South cooperation, such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, among other partnerships, in mobilizing resources and supporting the implementation of NEPAD and Africa's development. Support was expressed for the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and its outcomes.

8. Clarification was sought regarding the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development by African countries and their development partners, in particular, the status of the second biennial report and when it would be published. Delegations emphasized that implementation of the mandate related to the monitoring mechanism also required the strengthened capacity of the Office. In that regard, delegations noted with concern the continued delay in recruitment of the approved capacities in the Office and stressed the need for the Office to take immediate action to recruit all the approved capacities without further delay.

9. Delegations emphasized the importance of enhanced United Nations system coordination in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and urged that the newly established Global Infrastructure Forum be aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and incorporated in the work of the Office and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

10. Clarification was sought regarding the compatibility, coherence and synergies existing between the 2030 Agenda and the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, notably the enhancement of the synergies and complementarities between the global and regional frameworks, as well as the facilitation of the mainstreaming, domestication and implementation of all the development frameworks in Africa.

11. Clarification was also sought regarding the reference made in the report to the African Union's Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women, notably the conclusion that the United Nations system should strengthen its coordination and enhance its support for the acceleration of the implementation of all commitments relating to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the protection of the rights of women. The query raised by a delegation was focused on that aspect only, not on the treatment of all human rights aspects equally.

12. Moreover, clarification was sought regarding the role of the Office in conflict and peace mediation and conflict prevention in African countries such as Burundi and Guinea-Bissau, and interventions in mobilizing support from the United Nations system and bilateral development partners. Clarification was also sought on the role of the Office in supporting United Nations-African Union peace and security cooperation, notably with regard to mobilizing international support for the African Union Mission in Somalia and addressing the deteriorating situation in Burundi.

13. While noting and welcoming the partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027, a successor programme to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, which would expire in December 2016, delegations also noted the challenges faced by the United Nations in providing support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme owing to the lack of dedicated financial resources for the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa clusters and for the implementation of the partnership.

14. Delegations expressed concern over the lack of resources and funding in support of implementation of the global and regional development frameworks in Africa.

15. Delegations noted the high level of implementation and achievements of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, in the programme performance report for the period 2014-2015 and sought clarification regarding lessons learned and challenges leading to such performance. Clarification was also sought regarding the linkages between the indicators of achievement of the strategic framework of programme 9, United Nations support for NEPAD, and the findings contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2016/5).

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2016/5) and recommended that the General Assembly should endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 112 to 121 of the report.**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to continue to include, in his future reports, detailed information relating to the possible outcomes of the achievements of NEPAD targets.**

18. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should reiterate its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and called upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities, including the financing of programmes and projects, resource mobilization and humanitarian assistance.**

19. **The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly should request the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and the Partnership in order to support strategic plans of the**

African Union Commission and the 10-year implementation plan for the African Union Agenda 2063.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request the United Nations system to continue to strengthen its support for the implementation of the NEPAD strategic plans and programmes in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris climate agreement.

21. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should emphasize the need for the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to take into consideration the views, comments and/or input of regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in their policy formulations and decision-making, mainly in the areas of mediation, conflict prevention and peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in full respect of the principles of ownership, impartiality and consent of the parties.

22. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that activities under the United Nations system support for NEPAD in the areas of mediation and conflict prevention are harmonized and take into account existing mechanisms in the region and subregion, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlap, in accordance with the Charter and in full respect of the principles of ownership, impartiality and consent of the parties.

23. The Committee recommended that the reports of the Secretary-General on NEPAD should continue to include information not only on seminars, workshops and meetings but also on other tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa, while stressing that future reports should further enhance the focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, with regard to the resources.

24. The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to include information on the activities undertaken by the Office in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda.

25. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General, in the context of his report on NEPAD, to include information on the activities undertaken to provide support to countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence.

26. The Committee emphasized the need for United Nations entities to continue their efforts in support of the region to address new challenges relating to governance, extremism and terrorism, and those faced by young people, and recommended that the Secretary-General should include information in that regard in his report.

27. The Committee recognized the important role played by the development of hard infrastructure in Africa, in particular energy, railways and highways, and recommended that the General Assembly should reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize United Nations system support in that area, in particular for the initiatives of the regional economic communities.

28. The Committee emphasized the need for the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to provide information in that regard.

29. The Committee noted with concern the continued delay in the recruitment of personnel to implement the mandates related to the monitoring mechanism and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure that all approved capacity in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa is recruited as a matter of priority and without further delay so as to avoid a negative impact on mandate delivery.

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 6
Legal affairs

1. At its 20th meeting, on 13 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 6) and Corr.1 and 2). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Legal Counsel, introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Views were expressed in support and appreciation of the important work carried out by the Office of Legal Affairs. Delegations underscored the importance of the International Law Fellowship Programme and the regional courses in international law, as well as the dissemination of legal publications and information. In that regard, the usefulness of the Audiovisual Library of International Law was recognized. At the same time, emphasis was placed on the need to continue the dissemination of hard copies, in particular to lawyers in developing countries.

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4. Delegations noted the contribution of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to the understanding of international law and emphasized the need for Member States to continue to support it, including by ensuring the continuation of stable funding so as to avoid any disruption of the Programme.

5. Reference was made to paragraph 6.10 in relation to the strategy of subprogramme 1, Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole, stating that the Secretary-General, as the custodian of the Headquarters Agreement, should reinforce the implementation of the Agreement, in particular its article IV, section 11 and section 13 (a), governing the host country's legal obligation to grant entry visas to the officials of all Member States attending United Nations meetings. In that regard, a delegation expressed concern at repeated difficulties faced by some Member States in obtaining the necessary visas and information was sought on how the Office of Legal Affairs was dealing with the situation, including whether there existed any report on the matter. It was pointed out that there were no expected accomplishments or indicators of achievement that related to the implementation of the Agreement.

6. Also with regard to subprogramme 1, the view was expressed that the indicator of achievement needed to be refined, given that the way in which it was presented would not provide for comparison with data from previous periods. Clarification was requested on what the indicator, namely, "a high percentage of legal instruments are finalized in respect of the activities of the United Nations", was intended to measure. With regard to paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7, clarification was sought as to the specific quantities of legal advice and services that would be provided to principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations.

7. With respect to subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, the view was expressed that the strategic framework needed to include a narrative on cooperation between the Office of Legal Affairs and other legal institutions, including the international tribunals and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, which contributed significantly to international peace and the rule of law. Information was sought on the substantive support provided to the International Law Commission, in particular what the Office of Legal Affairs was doing in the light of the recommendation of the Fifth Committee in December 2015 that the financial requirements of the Commission emanating from the work of its sixty-seventh session had to be absorbed (see A/C.5/70/L.17, sect. F). With regard to indicator of achievement (b) (ii), replacing "end users" of legal publications, documents and information with "beneficiaries", especially from developing nations, was suggested. Furthermore, clarification was sought as to the role of and measures being taken by the Office to increase the access of developing countries to the Audiovisual Library of International Law.

8. Regarding subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, the ongoing efforts of the Office of Legal Affairs were welcomed and commended. Clarification was sought on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/235 on oceans and the law of the sea and the steps that the Office was taking towards meeting the ocean-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including whether any additional initiatives were planned. Questions were raised regarding the

efforts made to reprioritize its work to implement the 2030 Agenda within existing resources.

9. Concerning subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade, the view was expressed that, while providing useful information, indicator of achievement (a) (i), increased number of legislative decisions (ratifications and national enactments), did not measure achievements of the Secretariat but rather those of Member States. The view was also expressed that the indicators under expected accomplishment (a) should have reflected the improved timeliness in legislative decisions rather than the increase in the number of legislative decisions.

10. With regard to subprogramme 6, Custody, registration and publication of treaties, the view was expressed that consideration should be given to making all agreements available online, including texts identified as being "for limited publication". Clarification was also sought as to the relevant mandate for the Treaty Section's computerization programme, as outlined in paragraph 6.31, notably the new treaty reporting tools and the mobile-friendly website.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1

Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole

Indicators of achievement

Replace the existing indicator of achievement with the following: "(i) Maintenance of high percentage of legal instruments finalized in respect of the activities of the United Nations".

Add a new indicator of achievement (a) (ii), reading "Number of pieces of advice on questions relating to the interpretation and application of the Charter, legal agreements, United Nations resolutions and general questions of public international law to ensure uniform and consistent practice of the law".

Subprogramme 3

Progressive development and codification of international law

Indicators of achievement

Replace the existing indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with the following: "Increasing number of end users of legal publications, training materials, documents and information disseminated in hard copy and online in various languages, in accordance with current practice".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iv), reading "Increased number of beneficiaries of the training and fellowship programmes".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (v), reading "Timely issuance of legal publications, including hard copies, in accordance with current practice".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (vi), reading "Increased number of Audiovisual Library of International Law users in developing countries".

Subprogramme 4

Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Indicators of achievement

In indicator b (ii), delete "and the implementation of the oceans-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Strategy

Paragraph 6.19

Delete ", and the implementation of the oceans-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

1. At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 8 and 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 14)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme. On the whole, they expressed positive views about the programme, emphasizing the high priority given to the implementation of the programme's mandate on gender equality and the empowerment of women. A suggestion was made to consider renaming the programme "Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls".

4. Stress was placed on gender equality being both an end in itself and a prerequisite for global development and just societies, and it was pointed out that

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gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls were at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The special role and responsibility of UN-Women in the implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals was highlighted. In that regard, information was sought regarding the specific steps undertaken by UN-Women to reorient its activities and resources in support of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Full support was expressed for the work of UN-Women in the areas of advocacy, normative support and coordination. Support was also expressed for the six strategic plan goals listed in paragraph 14.4, and the view was expressed that it would have been useful if the six goals were more "visible" throughout the framework.

6. Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, a delegation stressed the importance of ensuring greater coherence and accountability and of the role of UN-Women in supporting the implementation of the accountability framework of the United Nations system on gender equality and empowerment of women.

7. The view was expressed that the programme placed great emphasis on intergovernmental actors while focusing less on planning by individual States. In that regard, the importance of national development plans and related support by the Organization was emphasized. The articulation between the normative work and action at the country level was questioned and it was emphasized that UN-Women should work both at the national and the international levels and that the universal mandate of UN-Women implied that activities encompassed both developing and developed countries. On that note, it was stressed that UN-Women should undertake its activities in coordination with the countries involved and that any assistance and support must only be carried out upon direct request by Member States.

8. Several delegations commented on the nature and scope of the indicators of achievement in the framework, including that they measured "process" rather than "impact" and "normative changes", and that they should be strengthened in order to focus more on the level of support provided or actions undertaken by UN-Women rather than on actions by Member States.

9. With regard to subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships, it was stressed that "intergovernmental support" should be understood as "secretariat support". In that sense, it was reiterated that indicators of achievement must measure the work undertaken by the Organization and not that of Member States. For instance, a delegation pointed out, the increased percentage of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that integrated gender perspectives as a result of the efforts of UN-Women (indicator of achievement (a) (ii)) was the prerogative of Member States and not an achievement of UN-Women.

10. Under the same subprogramme, information was sought on expected accomplishment (c), namely, whether the indicators of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women were also being reflected in the indicators of achievement. Information was also sought regarding the scope and nature of the "partnerships" referred to in paragraph 14.7 (i) of the strategy.

11. Clarification was sought with regard to the meaning of indicator of achievement (b) under subprogramme 1, in particular the formulation "percentage of spaces and platforms". In that regard, it was stressed that the involvement of civil

society was the prerogative of Member States and that a special procedure existed for the participation of civil society in United Nations conferences.

12. Information was sought regarding the criteria for inclusion of legislative mandates in the text, in particular why agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women had been singled out and the latest mandates were missing.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 14.2

Replace the last sentence with "The programme of work of UN-Women is based on the principle of universality. The achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women is central to the mandate of UN-Women and is addressed across all its priority areas of work."

Paragraph 14.3

In the last sentence, replace "recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are pivotal" with "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are essential".

Paragraph 14.4

In subparagraphs (e) and (f), replace each reference to "gender equality and the empowerment of women" with "gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

Paragraph 14.6

In the first sentence, replace the reference to "gender equality and the empowerment of women" with "gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

At the end of the paragraph, add "Support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system is an integral part of the programme strategy."

Subprogramme 1
Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Enhanced support from UN-Women for the activities of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality

and the empowerment of women, including the integration of gender perspectives into their spheres of activity, as appropriate".

Replace expected accomplishment (d) with "Enhanced capacity to build partnerships for the accelerated achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women through increased awareness".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (i) with "Increased number of activities aimed at supporting the participation of Member States, upon their request, in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women".

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (ii) with "Increased number of intergovernmental bodies integrating gender perspectives into their spheres of activity, including as a result of the efforts of UN-Women".

Insert new indicator of achievement (a) (iii), reading "Maintenance of the high percentage of required documents submitted by UN-Women on time for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women, in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations on the issuance of documentation".

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with "Increased number of activities of UN-Women aimed at supporting the contribution of non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on the Status of Women".

Replace indicators of achievement (d) (i), (d) (ii) and (d) (iii) as follows:

(d) (i) "Increased percentage of media and social media coverage of UN-Women's programmatic work aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women".

(d) (ii) "Increased number of activities of UN-Women developed with civil society and other stakeholders that contribute globally to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment".

(d) (iii) "Increased amount of resources mobilized as voluntary contributions to UN-Women".

Paragraph 14.7

In subparagraph (a), after "obligations", add "of the States parties".

Insert new subparagraph (b), reading "Promoting efforts to reach gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, ensuring managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance, including through appointments to senior positions;".

Renumber the remaining subparagraphs.

In subparagraph (c) (formerly (b)), delete "substantive and", and after "equality", add "and empowerment of women".

In subparagraph (h) (formerly (g)), after "as well as", add ", where appropriate, ".

In subparagraph (j) (formerly (i)), after "strategic partnerships", add "with relevant stakeholders".

Subprogramme 2
Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in this regard".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Enhanced capacity of UN-Women to effectively support, upon the request of Member States, national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to protect women's human rights".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with "Increased capacity to lead and coordinate the United Nations system at the country level in supporting Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower women and achieve gender equality".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with "Increased number of policies and actions taken and/or supported by UN-Women, upon the request of Member States, at the national and regional levels to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women".

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with "Increased number of UN-Women activities related to strengthening capacity development provided, upon the request of Member States, to national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations".

In indicator of achievement (c) (i), after "participation", add "and/or assistance".

In indicator of achievement (c) (ii), replace "implement" with "apply".

Paragraph 14.8

In subparagraph (b), replace "as requested" with "upon their request", and after "equality" add "and the empowerment of women".

In subparagraph (c), replace "as requested" with "upon their request".

Legislative mandates

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women

Add "2016 Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development".

Executive Board decisions

Add "2014/1 Harmonization of reporting cycles".

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Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 12th meeting, on 7 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 15)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed support and appreciation for the programme and commended the overall work of the Economic Commission for Africa.

4. The view was expressed that the proposed strategic framework captured critical areas in which Africa's structural transformation was possible and could be accelerated by ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic and social development. The fact that those priority areas were also articulated in critical regional and global outcomes would give United Nations entities the impetus necessary to address them in an effective and timely manner. It was noted that, in that context, the Commission

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had provided support to member States by focusing on collecting up-to-date and original regional statistics in order to base policy research and advocacy on clear and objective evidence, by promoting policy consensus and by providing meaningful capacity development.

5. Delegations recognized that African countries needed to make progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (para. 15.11). Questions were raised concerning the key elements to be taken into account by national actors and the activities implemented. Clarification was sought on the challenges the Commission encountered in supporting member States, for example, in mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into national policies and strategies.

6. The need to further strengthen the programme was emphasized. Specifically, with regard to subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, indicator of achievement (a) (i) would be considered both measurable and impact-oriented if it were crafted in a manner to reflect the reception by member States of the tools and products put forward. It was proposed that the indicator be drafted following the format of indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (ii) under subprogramme 2, Regional integration and trade, which effectively intended to measure the number of member States that adopted or utilized the Commission's forecasting models, planning tools and knowledge products.

7. Under subprogramme 2, Regional integration and trade, further clarifications were sought on indicator of achievement (a) (ii), specifically on whether there were member States that had still not integrated industrialization into their national development policies and planning frameworks; and the formulation of indicator of achievement (b) (ii), since participation in the Continental Free Trade Area was a strictly political decision.

8. Appreciation was expressed for the manner in which the issue of gender was captured, both under subprogramme 3, Innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources, and as subprogramme 6, Gender and women in development, which showed the commitment of the Commission to further advance gender-related activities. In that connection, clarification was sought on the lack of reference to the gender dimension under subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy. The question was raised as to why no reference had been made to the elimination of all forms of violence against women in the strategic framework.

9. Subprogramme 4, Statistics, was considered one of the Commission's strongest areas of work and one in which important progress had been made. In that connection, it was considered that the implementation of the subprogramme would strengthen the capacity of member States to enter the data revolution age and produce, disseminate and use data and statistics to facilitate evidence-based policymaking, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. The important role of the regional commissions, in coordination with the United Nations country teams, was underlined in the implementation of activities relating to statistics capacity development at the national level. On the basis of the previous report of the Committee on Contributions (A/70/11), it was pointed out that many African countries still used the 1978 or the 1993 statistical systems. In that connection, clarification was sought on the targets established in the subprogramme to measure member State alignment with the 2008 System of National Accounts.

10. Under component 4, subregional activities in East Africa, of subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for development, emphasis was placed on collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which played a pivotal role in the political and economic development of the region by strengthening coordination at the policy and operational levels. However, it was expressed that modifications to the elements of the strategic framework might be required to reflect the manner in which regional organizations could leverage the resources available from the Commission.

11. The view was expressed that the Commission's flagship publications brought to the foreground issues relating to development in the region.

12. The Commission's programme accountability framework and executive performance management dashboard were considered innovative (para. 15.19). Clarification was sought as to how experiences were shared with other regional commissions and entities, including lessons learned. Questions were raised concerning the data revolution and the accountability framework, and specifically as to how the Commission would work with relevant national, local and regional stakeholders to improve awareness of the data framework and to ensure that data collection was of quality, comparable, harmonized and suitable to the resources available in countries of the region. With regard to the integration of capacity strengthening within a national framework, the question was raised as to whether the Commission had already initiated activities and what had been carried out specifically, and whether guidelines had been provided to member States.

13. Under subprogramme 8, Development planning and administration, specifically indicator of achievement (a) (i), clarification was sought as to how it would be determined whether a member State was carrying out appropriate planning, including what would be considered as appropriate planning. In addition, under indicator of achievement (b) (i), the question was raised as to whether the Commission's recommendations were considered new or enhanced.

14. Delegations noted that most of the proposed indicators of achievement would be measuring the increase in the number of member States carrying out certain activities or using tools provided under the different subprogrammes. In that connection, clarification was sought as to how the Commission would conceptualize those achievements, as it was recognized that not all achievements could be growth-oriented and that some would need to be gauged otherwise. It was also noted that no figures had been provided in the strategic framework to show how achievements would be measured.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modification:**

Overall orientation

New paragraphs 15.10 and 15.11

After paragraph 15.9, insert two new paragraphs, as follows:

"15.10. Structural transformation in Africa's economies remains the highest priority, and industrialization is the top strategy for achieving it in practice. Achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 and fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals demand a major redesign of growth strategies across the continent.

15.11. The time has never been better for African countries to follow the right path towards sustainable development. In 2015, three landmark global agreements were reached that align well with Africa's need to industrialize by generating greener and more inclusive growth. The Sustainable Development Goals place equality, sustainability and universal basic needs at the heart of our common global economic strategy. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda offers a comprehensive framework for financing Africa's industrialization and structural transformation, with an emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, and the Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change leads to a shift to low emissions and puts the global economy on course for transforming its energy systems."

Renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(Item 3 (b) (ii))

Programme 16
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 16th meeting, on 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 16)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its efforts to expand regional capacity development in preparation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that regard, clarification was sought on the specific steps taken by ESCAP to reorient its activities and resources in support of the 2030 Agenda.

4. It was emphasized that the regional level was essential for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and support was expressed for ESCAP to play a greater role in promoting regional economic integration and coordinated development.

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5. Delegations pointed out that the ESCAP portfolio covered a wide range of issues and had been further supplemented with a new subprogramme on energy, for which several delegations expressed their support and appreciation. It was also noted that the creation of the subprogramme was appropriate and reflective of the mandates contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

6. With regard to subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development, clarification was sought on the mandated basis for replacement of the term "inclusive development" with "financing for development". In that regard, information was sought on what had been done by ESCAP to foster financing for development.

7. The view was expressed that consensus did not yet exist on what efforts to undertake in the area of paperless trade systems and arrangements, as referenced in paragraph 16.19 (b) of the strategy under subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation. It was requested that ESCAP focus its work on other areas of its mandate.

8. Also with regard to subprogramme 2, clarification was sought as to how "covering the aspects of enhanced representation and voice of developing countries" in paragraph 16.17 of the strategy could lead to the achievement of results. With regard to the reference to the "effective transfer of technology" in paragraph 16.18, a delegation pointed out that the term should be qualified with the phrase "on mutually agreed terms". Further, regarding paragraph 16.19 (b) and the reference to "with a particular focus on paperless trade systems and arrangements", a delegation noted that there was no mandate for such actions.

9. With regard to subprogramme 3, Transport, information was sought on what specific challenges existed in terms of strengthening mobility and transport connectivity and what steps the Commission was taking to address those challenges.

10. With regard to subprogramme 7, Statistics, the view was expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement was methodologically incorrect from a results-based budgeting standpoint.

11. A delegation requested clarification of and questioned whether alternatives existed for several terms, namely: "better understanding of the associated trade-offs involved" in paragraph 16.13 of the strategy under subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development; "[countries] in special situations" in paragraph 16.41 of the strategy under subprogramme 6, Social development; "bilateral organizations" in paragraph 16.45 of the strategy under subprogramme 7, Statistics; and "appropriate fuel mix" in paragraph 16.57 of the strategy under subprogramme 9, Energy.

12. The view was expressed that, despite the overall scope of issues covered by the activities of ESCAP and the region's large size, the proposed document could have been more concise. It was pointed out that duplicative wording could have been avoided in references to collaboration with other United Nations entities under several subprogramme strategy sections, as well as in the five identical subregional components mentioned under subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development.

13. Clarification was requested with regard to the interpretation of the indicators of achievement for subprogramme 9, Energy, showing an "increased" number of activities. A delegation expressed the view that, as the subprogramme was newly established, it was unclear what the baseline used in conducting a trend analysis would be.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in line with established procedures.

15. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 2
Trade, investment and innovation

Paragraph 16.18

At the end of the first sentence, add "on mutually agreed terms and conditions".

Paragraph 16.19 (b)

Replace subparagraph (b) with "Designing and implementing trade facilitation policies and measures, including paperless trade systems;".

Paragraph 16.19 (c)

After "technology transfer", add "on mutually agreed terms and conditions".

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Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 17
Economic Development in Europe

1. At its 10th meeting, on 6 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic Development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 17)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme. ECE was commended for its activities aimed at facilitating greater economic integration and cooperation among its member States through policy dialogue and technical cooperation, the development of regulations and norms as well as the exchange and application of best practices. The increased interaction between ECE and other international organizations and regional commissions was highlighted as a means to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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4. It was noted that changes were made in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 compared with the framework for the period 2016-2017. The programme was commended for its efforts to promote the development of sustainable Euro-Asian transport links, especially through the regulation of the transport framework and the identification of road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation.

5. Clarification was sought on why migration appeared only under subprogramme 3, Statistics, while no reference to migration nor migrants was mentioned under subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration.

6. The view was expressed that trade barriers constituted an impediment for the further economic integration of the ECE region. With regard to subprogramme 6, Trade, clarification was sought regarding paragraph 17.29 (b) under the strategy of the subprogramme, notably the normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation. The view was expressed that, unlike the World Trade Organization, regional commissions were not mandated to develop standards and recommendations in the area of international trade facilitation and agricultural quality standards.

7. It was recalled that consultations were held in December 2015 and January 2016 between the five regional commissions and the United Nations Development Group. In that connection, clarification was sought on the results of the consultations and on how interregional cooperation among the five commissions could be strengthened in the future and resources could be leveraged.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objectives of assisting member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in line with established procedures.**

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic Development in Europe, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 17.5

At the end of the second sentence, add "regional" after "relevant".

Subprogramme 6

Paragraph 17.29 (b)

After "Normative work to", insert "support member States to".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 13th meeting, on 7 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 18)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting and advancing the development pillar of the Organization, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their linkages at the national and global levels, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It was recognized that the Commission played a vital role in the region and that that role should be supported

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and strengthened. It was noted that the Commission carried out important normative and analytical work in formulating macroeconomic policies — fiscal, monetary and financial — geared towards mobilizing domestic and external resources in line with the Goals and targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

4. Delegations expressed the view that the programme pinpointed accurately the challenges faced by the region and that it remained of concern that the region was still one of the most unequal in the attainment of development goals among countries of the region. Emphasis was made on the need to narrow the economic gaps between countries in the region.

5. The comment was made that education remained a paradigm for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and it was requested that the Commission illustrate how the programme reflected efforts in supporting the improvement and advancement of education in the region and how the Commission addressed the problem of illiteracy.

6. Clarifications were sought on the increasing demands from member States for analysis and policy proposals to tackle new challenges for macroeconomic policymaking within the framework and targets of the 2030 Agenda (para. 18.6), and on which institutional arrangements were in place to reach the expected coordination level (para. 18.15).

7. As regards the proposed merging of subprogrammes 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, and 4, Financing for development, previously presented in the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 as separate subprogrammes, the view was expressed that that could curtail the area of financing for development. Accordingly, information was sought on how the integration of the two subprogrammes would help to address the issues.

8. Under subprogramme 10, Statistics, clarification was sought concerning the linkages between the proposed expected accomplishment (b) and its indicator of achievement (i), and the view was expressed that the proposed indicator seemed too narrow to reflect the expected accomplishment.

9. The view was expressed that there existed linkages between subprogramme 1, Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperatio , and subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, particularly the emphasis made on integration and regional cooperation and the means used by countries of the region to ensure that they became a successful part of the global economy. Delegations welcomed the efforts by the Commission in supporting and advancing regional coordination, and the view was expressed that interregional cooperation should be reflected more clearly across the Programme. Noting the work of the Commission with integration mechanisms in the region, clarification was sought on how the Commission ensured such cooperation, including whether regular meetings between the Commission and such mechanisms were held.

10. Delegations noted the importance of the activities carried out by the Commission in the subregions, particularly under subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico. In that connection, it was recognized that the subregion was rather diverse, and clarifications were sought as to what the Commission did to reflect those diverging realities on the ground. Information was sought on whether Commission documents

were issued in different languages to take into account the language specificity of member states of the region. As regards the programmatic elements of the subprogramme, it was suggested that elements of the strategic framework should be reviewed further to enhance the link between the objective and the expected accomplishments.

11. Note was taken of the conclusions of the plenary of the Commission, which had recently convened its thirty-sixth biennial session at the ministerial level in Mexico City, including changes requested to paragraph 18.12 of the overall orientation of the programme. In that connection, the view was expressed that said change should be reflected in the final version of the approved programme.

12. Delegations enquired about the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development during the thirty-sixth biennial session of the Commission, including whether the outcome would lead to a request for additional resources upon approval of the resolution by the Economic and Social Council. In that connection, the comment was made that, in general, the establishment of new entities should be carried out within existing resources approved for the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations should

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

14. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 18.12

Replace the first sentence with the following:

"In that regard, ECLAC advocates a single universal sustainable development agenda, with equality at its core."

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Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 19
Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 16th meeting, on 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 19)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support and appreciation were expressed for programme 19 and for the overall work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

4. A delegation noted that subprogramme 2, Social development, contained a reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was also noted that the proposed indicator of achievement (ii) under expected accomplishment (a) included a reference to the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. In that connection, clarification was sought as to whether that formulation reflected language agreed upon in the context of the 2030 Agenda, with the view expressed that the proposed indicator should be phrased in line with the language agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda.

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Conclusions and recommendations

5. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

6. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.**

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 12th meeting, on 7 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 9)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the programme and together with other representatives of the Secretariat responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the complex and ambitious nature of the programme and expressed their support for it, recognizing the important role it played in coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system in support of development in Africa. Delegations made reference to processes such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which engaged with the programme, and more generally to South-South cooperation initiatives, such as those in support of the response to the 2014 Ebola disease

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outbreak in West Africa. The systematic inclusion of measures to support the autonomy and empowerment of women in the programme was welcomed.

4. Some delegations considered Agenda 2063 a priority for the African Union. At the same time, some delegations recalled that, unlike the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Agenda 2063 was neither a United Nations document nor had it been endorsed by the General Assembly and should, therefore, not be given the same weight as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which had resulted from a global process and had reason to be reflected in the proposed plan outline and strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.

5. The view was expressed that resources approved by the General Assembly for programmes such as NEPAD should be used to deliver on the goals and objectives outlined in approved mandates and relevant activities carried out by the appropriate offices. It was emphasized that in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 69/313, the General Assembly had in essence supported the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and had reaffirmed the importance of supporting the new development framework and Agenda 2063. Clarification was sought as to whether that reference explained why Agenda 2063 had been included in the strategic framework of the programme.

6. It was pointed out that compared to other programmes, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development was being carried out by three different entities, namely the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information. In that regard, the importance of strengthened cooperation between those entities was emphasized and further clarification on the coordination of work between those entities was sought.

7. On subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, clarification was sought on the formulation of expected accomplishments (a) and (d), which made reference to "Increased international community support" and "Increased international awareness", respectively. The corresponding indicators of achievement made reference to an "Increased number" of activities or visits to relevant websites. It was suggested that the language of those expected accomplishments be modified to read "Improved" rather than "Increased", in order to ensure coherence between the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement.

8. Concerns were expressed regarding how the priorities under Agenda 2063 had been reflected in paragraphs 9.4 in the overall orientation and paragraph 9.12 under subprogramme 1. Further, clarification was sought on how the priorities could be more directly linked with NEPAD activities. The choice of the priorities was questioned, and clarification was sought as to their mandate. Moreover, the fact that there were no references to "good governance" or "democracy" in those paragraphs reflecting the programme's priorities raised concern.

9. Concerns were raised and clarification sought regarding the impact of specific obstacles that had impeded the implementation of the work of the subprogramme during the period 2014-2015, and whether those could be reflected and identified within the strategic framework for the period 2018-2019. Additionally, details were requested regarding specific obstacles that had impeded the work of the

subprogramme in relation to overcoming the Ebola disease outbreak and improving conditions within Africa.

10. A delegation expressed its support for Africa's development through its cooperation with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the African Union Commission as part of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process and also recognized the importance of the priorities of Agenda 2063. The same delegation further stated that implementing Agenda 2063 was not a mandate of the United Nations and that the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 should not have been addressed equally in the programme narrative since, while the 2030 Agenda was global, Agenda 2063 was only a mandate for the African Union.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in line with established procedures.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 9.4

Replace the last sentence with "Like the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, which covers the period 2014-2023, take a people-centred approach that aims to ensure that no one is left behind by emphasizing, inter alia, agriculture, health, education, infrastructure development, good governance and respect for human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, nutrition, peace and security.".

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Strategy

Paragraph 9.12

Replace the last sentence with "It will endeavour to raise international awareness of Africa's development issues through its policy, review, analytical, monitoring and advocacy activities in areas that are major African priorities and that are central to the continent's transformative development agenda, including, inter alia, agriculture, capacity-building, diversification of economies, youth empowerment, food security and nutrition, industrialization, infrastructure development,

including energy, health, peace and security, good governance and respect for human rights, all with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.".

Subprogramme 2
Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization

Replace "and its Agenda 2063" with "and Agenda 2063".

At the end of the objective, insert ", in coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

Expected accomplishments

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Enhanced coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies and organizations, within the context of PAIDA".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with "Increased number of joint projects implemented by the United Nations organizations, through PAIDA and in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa".

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

1. At its 11th meeting, on 6 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 8)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed general support for the programme and emphasized the importance of the role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in monitoring, reporting on and implementing the programmes of action, including graduation from the least developed country category. Delegations commended the Office on the strategic articulation of the special needs of countries in that category by mobilizing and coordinating international support and resources, and by undertaking advocacy work in partnership with development partners and the relevant parts of the United Nations system.

Please recycle

4. Clarification was sought on whether the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (para. 8.3) included any reference to the landlocked developing countries.

5. There was a reiteration of the complementary contribution of South-South cooperation to the development of the three groups of countries. Clarification was sought on how the programme had helped to translate that into reality.

6. Clarifications were also sought on whether any General Assembly resolution underpinned the provisions in paragraph 8.5 (g) on maximizing synergies among the three subprogrammes.

7. Clarifications were sought on the implementation of the decisions arising from the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, notably how the Office would incorporate the provisions of the outcome document of the Midterm Review into the strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 and, more specifically, how to facilitate the operationalization of the technology bank. Several delegations enquired as to what kind of technical and financial support would be required from the Office for the operation of the technology bank for least developed countries. Clarification was sought on whether governing and monitoring bodies had been set up and if Member States had approved that initiative.

8. Some delegations called for a modification of language under subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, notably indicator of achievement (b) (ii), on the implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, questioning whether those issues fell within the mandate of the Office. Clarification was sought on the effectiveness of indicator of achievement (a) (ii) relating to the "increased number of visits by unique end users to the website". Furthermore, a delegation noted that, with regard to indicators of achievement (c) (i) and (c) (ii), there was a need to strengthen the indicators and incorporate measures to address the needs and challenges of least developed countries and others.

9. Under subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, clarification was sought on whether the Office did in fact have a mandate to undertake research and present policy recommendations on the impact of "landlockedness" on economic growth and the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in international and regional trade (para. 8.7 (e)).

10. Under subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, questions were raised concerning the undertaking of a comprehensive midterm review on the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly on the matter. In addition, concerns were expressed regarding the premature nature of the inclusion of the text in paragraph 8.8 (e) and the inclusion of resolution 70/202 in the list of mandates ahead of any decision on the way forward by the Assembly.

11. Clarification was sought on progress achieved by countries in meeting the criteria for graduation from the least developed countries category since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011. Further questions were raised on how graduation brackets could improve in the future.

12. Clarification was sought on whether any resource mobilization strategy had been undertaken by the Office and why no references could be found to those activities in the strategic framework. Clarification was also sought on whether a donor fund existed for crisis situations arising in least developed countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 8.5 (c)

Replace "ensure" with "promote".

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals related to the least developed countries, greater commitment from least developed countries and increased international support for graduation".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with "Increased number of development partners supporting least developed countries in implementing the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iii) reading "Increased number of development partners supporting least developed countries in meeting the graduation criteria, in line with the principles of the Istanbul Programme of Action".

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (i) with "Increased number of initiatives implemented by landlocked developing countries and transit countries that aim at improving sustainable development and inclusive

growth, including trade facilitation and transport systems, diversification of production and export bases and integration into regional and global value chains".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iii) reading "Increased number of development partners supporting landlocked developing countries in implementing the provisions of the Vienna Programme of Action".

Strategy

Paragraph 8.7

Replace subparagraph (d) with "Contributing to global follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as advocating for effective linkages and synergies between that follow-up and review process and that of the Vienna Programme of Action".

Replace subparagraph (e) with "Undertaking research and analysis on the impact of "landlockedness" on sustainable development, economic growth and the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in international and regional trade, and developing policy recommendations".

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) with "Increased number of development partners that pledge support for small island developing States, including through the climate change financing mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Climate Investment Funds".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) with "Increased number of joint programmes and activities by development partners, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations, including triangular cooperation with South-South development partners, that have an impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops, and technical and financial assistance".

Strategy

Paragraph 8.8 (e)

Replace the existing text with "Supporting Member States in the review of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and identifying ways of accelerating its implementation."